



ARIZONA REGISTRAR OF CONTRACTORS



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Janice Brewer, Governor

William A. Mundell, Director

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Media Advisory

Unlicensed contractor AGAIN arrested in Phoenix

A recent media advisory described an arrest of Frank Marquez, who is suspected of acting as an unlicensed contractor. A person commits a Class 1 Misdemeanor by (1) advertising to perform services that require a contractor's license, and/or (2) acting in the capacity of a contractor without a license. Marquez's victims say they found him through Craigslist advertisements. The victims allege Marquez accepted payment, but performed incomplete or no work.

As a result of his alleged unlicensed contracting, Marquez has cases in Chandler, Scottsdale, and Gilbert. On May 20, 2013, the Chandler Municipal Court sentenced Marquez to:

- Up to \$20,000 in restitution,
- \$2,000 in fines, and
- 2 years' probation.

Despite this conviction, the Registrar of Contractors (ROC) had reason to believe Marquez was still operating as an unlicensed contractor. On June 6, 2013, the ROC used a bait house to conduct a sting operation. Marquez took the bait and was arrested on charges of advertising without a license, contracting without a license, and contracting in violation of probation. The ROC sincerely appreciates the support of the City of Phoenix in protecting residents from unlicensed contractors.

William Mundell, Director of the ROC, said, "Protecting the people of Arizona from being harmed by unlicensed contractors is our highest priority."

The Registrar of Contractors advises homeowners to protect themselves by:

- Reviewing the contractor's license record at (<http://www.azroc.gov/forms/contractorsearch.html>).
- Verifying that the person is an authorized representative of the licensed contractor by calling the contractor's number listed on the ROC license record.
- Asking for written estimates from at least three contractors.
- Requesting a list of references, and checking them before agreeing to hire anyone.
- Making sure the scope of the project, the price, the responsibility to obtain building permits, and any other relevant terms are spelled out in a written contract.
- Never paying in cash, and not allowing payments to get ahead of the work.
- Avoiding contractors who require large upfront payments.
- Never making a hurried decision.

Other tips about hiring qualified contractors can be found at www.azroc.gov.

For more information, or to request an interview with Director Mundell, contact Tyler Palmer, Chief of Staff for the Arizona Registrar of Contractors at (602) 771-6710.

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